

**The Saint Nicholas Society
of Nassau Island**



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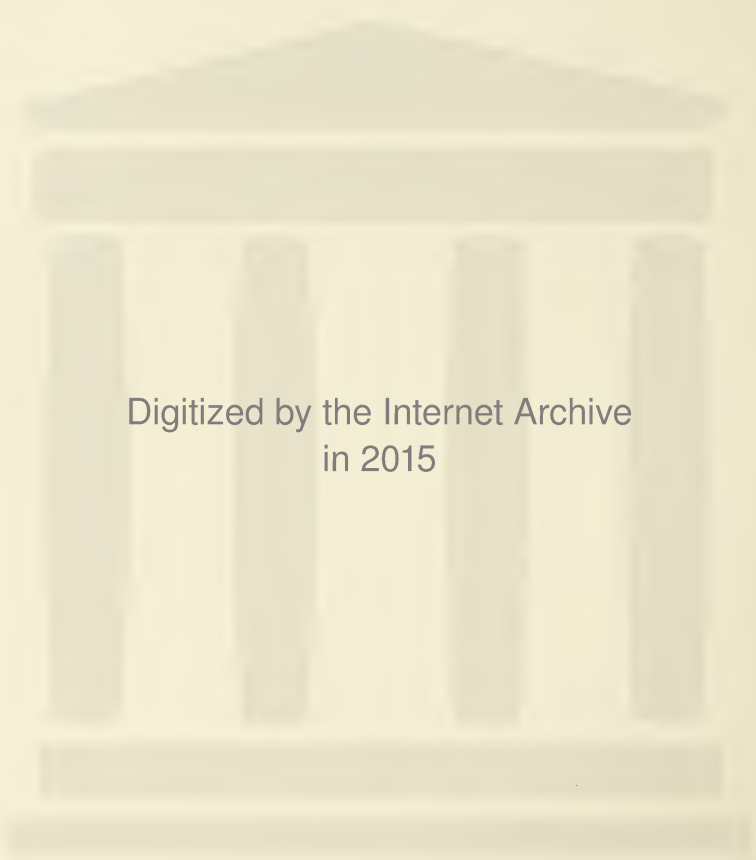
RESIDENCE OF GENERAL JEREMIAH JOHNSON
N. E. KENT AVENUE AND HEWES STREET—ERECTED 1800
(From a water color in the Collection of the Kings County Historical Society)

**The Saint Nicholas Society
of Nassau Island**

BIOGRAPHIES AND SKETCHES

PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY

1914



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NOTE.

At its Paas meeting, on Easter Monday, 1914, the St. Nicholas Society of Nassau Island voted that a suitable record of the Society should be prepared and appointed the undersigned a committee to issue such a volume. After careful consideration of all the conditions the committee decided to present the growth of the society in the form of a series of biographical sketches of its Presidents. It is happy to say that it has been able to secure a brief but authorized biography of each of the gentlemen who have served the Society in this its highest office, since its organization to the present date, and that in every case a portrait of the President has been secured to accompany the sketch of his life. To these biographies has been added a short sketch of the characteristics of the early Dutch colonists of Long Island. A list of the present officers and members of the Society is also presented for convenience of reference, the whole forming a suitable souvenir of the sixty-sixth annual dinner of the St. Nicholas Society of Nassau Island.

A. DEWITT MASON,
CHARLES A. DITMAS,
JOHN S. GARDNER.

St. Nicholas Day, 1914.

THE DUTCH PIONEERS OF NASSAU ISLAND.

The St. Nicholas Society of Nassau Island was organized on March 1, 1848, by men who were the descendants, for the most part, of those families who, in the early Colonial days, settled on Long Island and began the development of that community which has since become so important a part of our great city.

The Society does not exist wholly for social purposes, though the good fellowship of its banquets on St. Nicholas Day and its Paas suppers are well known and greatly enjoyed annual experiences. Its object also has been to "preserve the traditions and customs of our ancestors and to perpetuate the influence of the principles of our forefathers."

This object has hitherto been achieved by the earnest and eloquent addresses which have from time to time been delivered before the Society, but the time seems to have now come to commit to print at least some of the many inspiring facts concerning our ancestors which, being thus kept in memory, will continue to quicken our devotion to the principles which they have left to us as a priceless heritage.

The purpose of this little book is therefore to put into permanent shape some of the many available data concerning the early Dutch of "Nassau Eylant" and to group the history of our society around a series of biographical sketches of its Presidents.

After the discovery of Manhattan Island (1609) and the settlement of the little village which grew out of the first small trading post established where the Battery now stands, the more adventurous of the Colonists began to examine the adjacent territory with a view to the extension of their holdings and the enlargement of their commercial and agricultural opportunities. Trading posts and more or less flourishing colonies were formed as far north as Fort Orange (Albany) and Fort Casimir, near the mouth of the Delaware River, as well as along the northern shores of New Jersey and both banks of the great "River Mauriturius," the North or Hudson River.

But the fertile shores of Long Island, or "Nassau Eylant," as the Dutch named it, were the nearest and most tempting to the home-seeking Manhattanese, and very early they crossed the "East River" and took up land in at least three locations within the present Borough of Brooklyn—at Amersfoort or Flatlands, at the Waalboght or Walloons Bay, and at Gowanus, so called from the tribe of Indians which had heretofore held it.

From these points settlements gradually spread, until late in the 17th century there had been established what came to be known as "The Five Towns"—Breucklen, Midwout or Flatbush, Amersfoort or Flatlands, New Utrecht and Boschwyck or Bushwick. Of these, for many years Flatbush was the most important, lying as it did on the rich soil of the level land at the foot of the low hills that form the backbone of Long Island and ending with the elevation now crowned by Sunset Park, in the Eighth Ward, or old Gowanus section, of Brooklyn. Here the fertile acres, easily cleared and tilled, attracted the thrifty Dutch farmers and made the little towns of Flatbush and Flatlands predominant among their neighbors, until the greater advantages of the commerce nearer the waterfront of the East River gave Brooklyn a lead which has made her one of the great cities of the land.

Although the Dutch were in undisputed control of New Netherlands for only about sixty years, yet their habits and influences were active for a much longer time and, indeed, left such a deep impress upon the whole community that, even to this day in the old city of New York, but much more in Brooklyn, there are yet to be found traces of Dutch manners and customs and principles which have no small part in molding and controlling the lives of these great cities. This may be attributed in some degree to the permanence of many families of the old Dutch stock that, through the generations, have steadfastly remained near the scenes of their original settlement. But the greater reason for the persistence of Dutch types and traits of thought and character among these great populations which surround us is to be found in the inherent value and vitality of the principles which our Dutch forefathers brought from "patria" and handed

down from generation to generation of their descendants. Among these may be mentioned an unquenchable love of civil and religious liberty, a high regard for intellectual culture, a warm affection for the home and family and a deep-seated respect for order, industry and democratic government, which not only played no small part in forming the character of the communities which center around Brooklyn and New York but impressed themselves ineradicably on the early life of the American Colonies of the Middle States, and through them upon the national life of the entire Union.

While it is therefore accurate to call England the mother country of the American Union, it is quite as true to facts to denominate Holland its fatherland.

Among the many principles thus impressed upon the growing Colonies by our Dutch forefathers we may name three chief influences—the passion for government by the people, which gave rise to the strong democracy of the Colonies; the devotion to religion and education, which so largely controlled the life of the early settlers, and an adaptation to the pursuits of trade and commerce which has made the cities bordering on the harbor of New York the center of the business life of the North American continent.

The exercise of self-government was no unfamiliar thing to the early Dutch colonists. Their home land had asserted its right to the exercise of this precious privilege by the long and stubbornly contested struggle of the Eighty Years' War with Spain, which finally resulted in the agreement of Antwerp and the acknowledgment of the independence of the United Provinces by Spain (1609), and, some years later (1648), in a similar recognition by all the great powers of Europe. During this time the process of political education was so thorough and widespread that the great majority of the Netherlanders, both at home and in their Colonies, became well instructed in their rights and powers as citizens of the brave little Republic and fully qualified to exercise the duties of self-government. These powers they passed on to their descendants so unimpaired that though England finally

became the political head of the Dutch Colonies in North America it was the Dutchmen, and not the Englishmen, who remained in virtual control of the internal affairs of these settlements, and once more, as in earlier days, the saying came true, "The vanquished gave laws to the victors." English in name and form, but Dutch in principle and spirit, the citizens of the Jerseys, of Manhattan, of Long Island, of Fort Orange and of the Hudson and Mohawk Valleys, maintained their control over their personal interests almost as fully while the red flag of England waved over their forts and town halls as when that standard was the blue and white and orange of the famous Dutch East India Company.

But particularly did their system of religion and education remain practically unaffected by English rule. The Reformed Church still stood as the center of each little town and settlement, and to-day the location of the five Dutch towns of Nassau Island may be unerringly traced by the edifices of the five Colonial Dutch Churches which, with but one exception, the Church of Brooklyn, still stand on or near to their original sites and mark the spot where the sturdy Dutchmen and their children lived and worked and worshiped in those early days. And where the Church was found the school house could not be far off. The domine and the school teacher, who was usually also the "Voorleser" and often the "Kranken-besoecker" as well, were familiar figures in the life of the town and village, and to their learned and pious efforts was due the intelligence in mental and spiritual knowledge which distinguished the Dutch settlers from many other of the early colonists. To them may be traced not only the first Protestant church organized in the North American Colonies, but the earliest of our public schools, seminaries for higher education and theological halls which have been happily so multiplied in later years. And not a few of the methods of legal procedure, especially as connected with the sale, registration and possession of lands and other real property, which persist in the laws of New York and New Jersey to-day, are but modern adaptations of the principles of Netherlands law as applied to these matters.

The third influence which the Dutch handed down to their successors in the New World was the instinct and practice of business. Their nation had always been a people of traders. As a writer on the history of New York remarks ("Story of New York," Todd, p. 7): "The genius of the Netherlands was almost purely commercial. It was a nation of great merchants, not of shopkeepers, as Napoleon afterward styled the English. It had, at about the time of the settlement of New Amsterdam, 3,000 ships, 100,000 sailors and a trade of 16,000,000£ per annum as against England's 6,000,000£. Old Peter Heylin tells us that at Amsterdam, in 1623, at one tide 1,000 ships were seen to go out and in and that though scarce a stick of ship timber grew on their soil, yet they supplied the world with ships. Its great mercantile corporation, the privileged East India Company, chartered, after the rupture with Spain, to secure the rich trade of India and the East which Spain and Portugal had so long enjoyed, was at this time the wealthiest and most powerful association of merchants on the globe." This mercantile spirit for adventure and gain inspired the early Dutch discoveries and settlers. They were not driven from home by the spirit of adventure as were the Cavaliers of Virginia and the Carolinas, nor because of religious persecutions at home like the English Pilgrims and the Walloon refugees, for Holland, one of the most prosperous nations of her day, was at that time an asylum for the persecuted and distressed of every land. But freed from the burden of long-continued war, the energetic Dutchmen sought new ventures for their money and ships, and shared with the other nations of North Europe the lure of the fabled northeast passage to India that was to take the place of the long and dangerous route around the Cape of Good Hope and bring fame and fortune to those who found and followed it. Henry Hudson, an English navigator in command of the East India Company's ship "Half Moon," was seeking this fabled passage when he sailed through the long reach of the Narrows and up the river which now bears his own name, in the belief that the eagerly sought passage to India had at last been found. Thus the merchant spirit of the

Dutch settlers of New Amsterdam was strong from the start, and though of course they cleared and tilled the land to raise food for the growing community, their real work was the prosecution of trade in the purchase and export of the rich stores of furs brought to them by the Indian natives, and later by their skill in making New York a great trade center for all the adjacent coasts and their hinterland.

With such principles: A free and democratic self-government, only slightly controlled in civil matters by the authorities beyond the sea; a devotion to religion and education which made these virtues the foundations of the newly formed colony, and with the enterprising and self-reliant character of those whose mercantile interests brought them into touch with all their neighbors, both civilized and savage, it is but little wonder that the Dutch were the pioneers of a strong, independent and finally prosperous colony on the shores of the great river and bay, around which now cluster the towering palaces of the commercial and financial capital of America.

Such was the ancestry from which the Holland-Americans of to-day derive their heritage to the civic and social benefits which they now enjoy, and such were the virtues which, from the early days until the present, have been emulated by their descendants.

Nor have the following generations been unsuccessful in their endeavor to transmit to others the benefits they received from their predecessors. In the old city of New York and its suburbs, but especially in Brooklyn and the western end of Long Island, from Jamaica to Sea Gate, the traces of the Dutch forefathers are still abundantly in evidence. In our churches and our schools, in our courts and our customs, much remains that has been derived from the home-loving, industrious and patriotic Dutch. Even in the social life of the city, at least until all distinctiveness was lost in the great incongruous mass of people "out of every nation under heaven," which now forms the bulk of our population, there could be seen marks of the kindly and genial spirit of the early days, when Wall Street was the northern limit to the little town and the bell of the

"Church in the Fort" called the settlers to their Sabbath devotions. And this social spirit was most definitely manifested in the many holidays that were observed by the Dutch and distinguished them from their more austere neighbors of the New England Colonies.

There was St. Nicholas Day (December sixth) with its fun and frolic, its feasting and gifts, not to be confounded with Christmas Day, which, as the anniversary of Christ's birth, was always observed as a religious holy day, but not, as with us, as a day of distinctively social pleasures.

New Year's Day, with its neighborly interchange of calls and its special dainties, such as the New Year's cakes sprinkled with caraway seeds, and its formal receptions and balls, which closed the festivities of the day, was a direct importation from Holland. "In the palmiest days of New Year's calling," says Alice Morse Earle, "New York appeared one great family reunion. Every wheeled vehicle in town, or great sleds and sleighs if the sleighing was good, seemed to be loaded with visitors going from house to house, and were packed with great crowds of men who went to the house of every acquaintance of every one in the vehicle. Target companies had processions; political bodies called on families whose heads were well known in political life. Receptions at the City Hall by the Mayor and other officials, and lesser festivities of the same nature, were regularly observed. The letter-carriers issued 'New Year's Addresses,' with long columns of 'poetry' whose spirit was, as a rule, far better than its literary merit, and for which a small gift was expected from each family at whose house it was left." In a word, the day was one of cordial good will and fellowship and merriment, which, alas, in later years, so degenerated that the practice of New Year's calling, like many other good old customs, had finally to be given up.

And then there were the old Dutch holidays, Paas and Pinxter. So forgotten are they now that their very names convey but little significance, but in the olden days they stood for times of rejoicing and pleasure. Paas is the Dutch word for Easter, being derived from the Greek "pascha," and that from the Hebrew "pesach." On

Easter Day itself the services were of course of a religious nature, but the day following, Easter Monday, as we call it, was the true festival of Paas, when all made merry and rejoiced in honor of the risen Lord. It is now the date upon which the spring meeting of our Society, as well as of many such societies, is held. It was and is also a favorite day for the meeting of Church societies.

But the festival of Pinxter was the most remarkable of the festivals peculiar to the early Dutch colonists. We quote again from Mrs. Earle, who says of this custom: "The week following Whitsuntide (or Pentecost) has been observed with great honor and rejoicing in many lands, but in none more curiously nor riotously than in old New York, and to some extent in Pennsylvania and Maryland; and more strangely still, that observance was chiefly by an alien race, the negro slaves of the early settlers. It flourished with especial vigor at Albany, and is thus described by Munsell: 'Pinxter was a great gala day, or rather week, for they used to keep it up a week among the darkies. The celebration was held on Capitol Hill, then universally known as Pinxter Hill. The dances were the original Congo dances as danced in their native Africa. The negroes had a chief, Old King Charley, who was said to have been a prince in his own country and was supposed to have been one hundred and twenty-five years old at the time of his death. On these festivals Old Charley was dressed in a strange and fantastical costume; he was nearly barelegged, wore a red military coat trimmed profusely with variegated ribbons and a small black hat with a pompon stuck on one side. The dances and antics of the darkies must have afforded great amusement for the ancient burghers. As a general thing, the music consisted of a sort of drum, or instrument constructed out of a box with sheepskin heads, upon which Old Charley did most of the beating, accompanied by singing some queer African air. Charley generally led off the dance, when the Sambos and Phillises, juvenile and antiquated, would put in the double-shuffle heel-and-toe breakdown. These festivals seldom failed to attract large crowds from the city, as well as from the rural districts.'" "On Long Island," says Mrs. Earle, "Pinxter Day was widely ob-

served. The blacks went, on the week previous to the celebration, to Brooklyn and New York to sell sassafras and 'swingling tow' to earn their scanty spending money for Pinxter. They were everywhere freely given their time for rioting, but they had to provide their own money for gingerbread and rum. They gathered around the old market in Brooklyn, near the ferry, dancing for eels, blowing fish-horns, eating and drinking. The following morning the justice's office was full of sorry blacks hauled up for 'disorderly conduct.'"

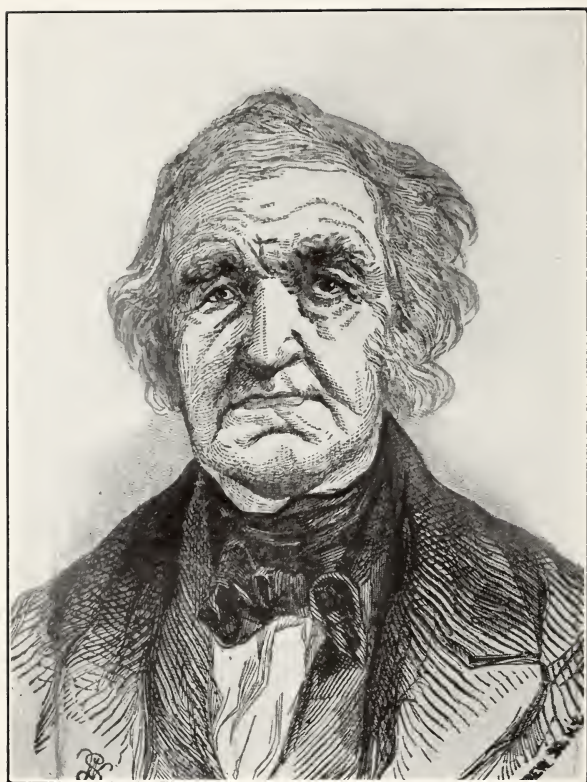
The Dutch residents on Long Island also celebrated the day in their own way, gathering "pinxster bloomitze," exchanging visits, drinking schnapps and eating "soft-wafels" together. In New York and New Jersey the azalea and the swamp-pink are still known as "pinkster blossoms," while some say that the name of our common garden pink is derived from the Dutch "pinxster" and German "pfingsten."

The foregoing festivals have been mentioned chiefly as examples of the social nature and kindly spirit of our Dutch forefathers. Much might be written of their home life, their religious customs and their political activities, for which space cannot now be found. From what has been already said may be readily deduced the chief characteristics of those men and women of Holland blood who braved the unknown terrors of the ocean and the wilderness to found new homes, develop new territories and establish new States among the unfamiliar and hazardous conditions of their pioneer abodes. That they cherished by their own actions and left to their descendants principles so full of vitality and blessing to those who followed them should surely be to us the occasion for gratitude and pride and a strong and abiding inspiration to us for conserving the virtues of the past and adding to them those methods of life and action required by the changing conditions of these latter days.

A. DEW. M.

PRESIDENTS OF THE ST. NICHOLAS SOCIETY OF NASSAU ISLAND.

GENERAL JEREMIAH JOHNSON	1848-1852
HON. JOHN A. LOTT	1852-1878
HON. TEUNIS G. BERGEN	1878-1881
HON. JOHN W. HUNTER	1881-1890
MR. SILAS LUDLAM	1890-1891
MR. HENRY D. POLHEMUS	1891-1895
MR. PETER WYCKOFF	1895-1895
HON. TUNIS G. BERGEN	1895-1903
HARMANUS B. HUBBARD, ESQ.	1903-1904
HON. GEORGE V. BROWER	1904-1906
PETER L. SCHENCK, M.D.	1906-1909
MR. S. T. WHITE	1909-1910
HON. EDWARD D. WHITE	1910-1911
HON. JOHN E. VAN NOSTRAND	1911-1913
MR. EDWARD B. VANDERVEER	1913-1914
MR. WILLARD P. SCHENCK	1914-



GENERAL JEREMIAH JOHNSON



GENERAL JEREMIAH JOHNSON

GENERAL JEREMIAH JOHNSON

1848-1852

General Jeremiah Johnson, the first President of the St. Nicholas Society of Nassau Island, was born in the old Johnson Homestead at the northeast corner of Kent Avenue and Hewes Street, Brooklyn, on January 23, 1766. His father, Barent Johnson, was an active patriot, holding a commission in the militia and rendering service in the Battle of Long Island and the campaign which preceded it. The writer has had occasion in another work to refer to him as follows:

"The willingness of the Dutch of Kings County to become the financiers of the State was brought to the attention of Governor Clinton. Lieutenant Samuel Dodge was captured in 1777 at Fort Montgomery. He was quartered at the residence of Barent Johnson, a well-known Whig and father of General Jeremiah Johnson, who was a founder of the St. Nicholas Society and its first President. On being exchanged, in December, 1777, he secured a loan of seven hundred pounds from Mr. Johnson for the State." Thus Major Johnson was the first of one hundred and forty-five Long Islanders, a large per cent. of whom were Dutch, who loaned the State over two hundred thousand pounds, and made possible the successful issue of the American Revolution.

General Johnson's boyhood was spent in the troubled days of the Revolution within a short distance of the prison ships in Wallabout Bay, and his recollections of these events formed some of the most interesting pages of Brooklyn history.

His ancestors settled at Gravesend in 1657, and the General was of nearly pure Dutch extraction and spoke the language of his ancestors fluently. He was always active in military affairs. On April 13, 1787, he was commissioned a Captain to succeed Barent Lefferts, who had resigned. On December 9, 1795, he was commissioned as Second Major of the regiment, commanded by Lt.-Col. Aquila Giles, and on March 19, 1796, was commissioned First Major. On November 11, 1800, he succeeded Lt.-Col. Giles in command, Giles having been promoted to be Brigadier-General. On July 4, 1812, he was

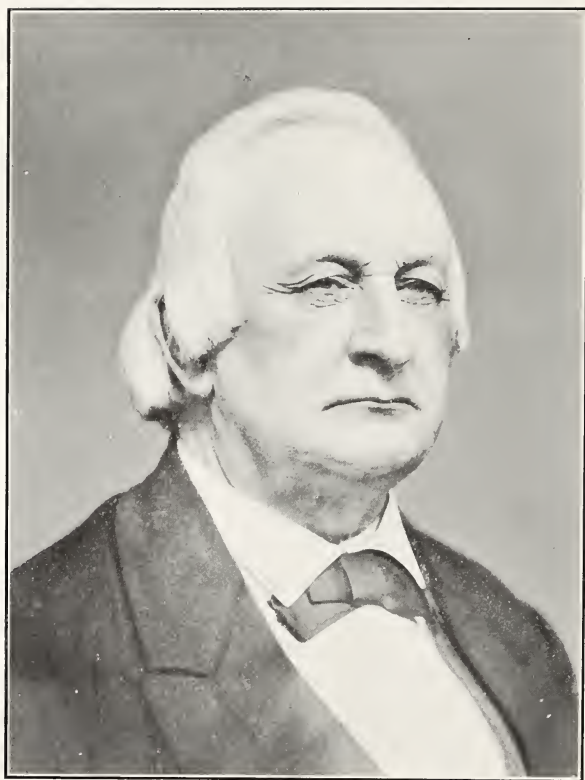
commandant of the 64th Regiment, 22d Brigade, 1st Division, and in 1814 he was promoted to succeed General J. S. Jackson to the rank of Brigadier-General and placed in command of the 22d Brigade. In 1816 he was commissioned Major-General of the militia of the State. In 1814 he was in command of the operations at Fort Greene.

For forty years General Johnson was Clerk of the Dutch Reformed Church of Brooklyn, of which he was a member. From 1796 until 1816 he was a trustee of the Town of Brooklyn. For nearly forty years he was Supervisor of Brooklyn, and in 1837 and 1838 he was Mayor of the City of Brooklyn. He served in the State Assembly in 1808, 1809, 1840 and 1841.

General Johnson was called "Brooklyn's first and foremost citizen," a honor to which he was justly entitled. He preserved in fragmentary form notes on the history of Long Island, which the writer believes the St. Nicholas Society should secure and publish. While he never made literary pretensions, he nevertheless was the author of many essays, poems and translations from the works of Erasmus and others. He made a careful translation of Van der Donk's "History of New Netherlands" from the Dutch language, in which he was proficient. He died October 20, 1852, while still President of the Society he had helped to found.

The St. Nicholas Society of Nassau Island, in recognition of his services to his city and his race, had a discourse on his life prepared and delivered before them by the Rev. S. R. Johnson in 1852, and caused the address to be published in a suitable manner. This work to-day is one of the most interesting items of Long Island literature to the scholar and the collector.

C. A. D.



HON. JOHN A. LOTT



JOHN MASON J. COOPER

HON. JOHN A. LOTT

1852-1878

The Hon. John A. Lott was born February 11, 1806. He was a son of Abraham and Maria Lott, of Flatbush, and was a descendant from Englebert Lott, a son of Pieter, the common ancestor of all the Lotts in America. He graduated from Union College at the age of twenty and studied law in the office of Henry E. Werner, of New York.

In 1835 he formed a partnership with Henry C. Murphy for the practise of law, and in 1836 Judge John Vanderbilt was admitted to the firm. The relations continued until 1857, when Mr. Lott was elected a Justice of the Supreme Court.

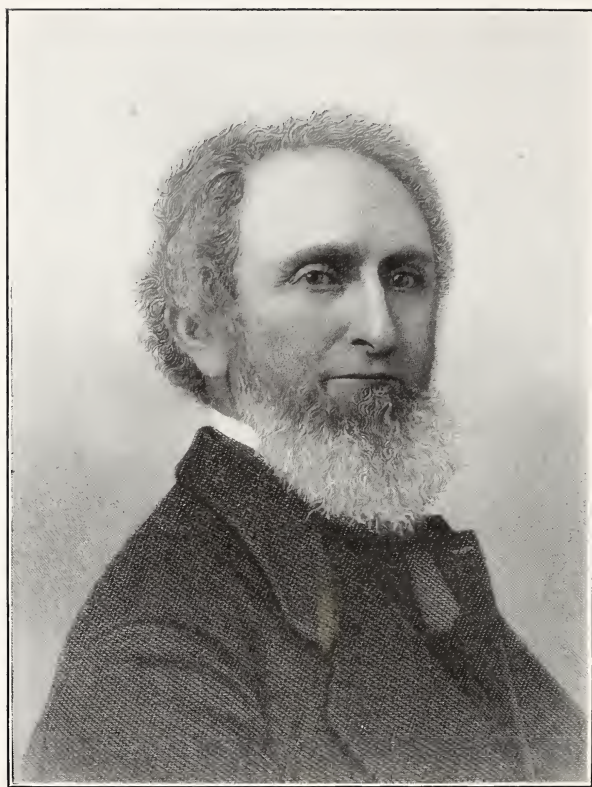
On April 13, 1838, Governor Marcy appointed Mr. Lott as First Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, which office he held until January 27, 1843. In 1841 he was elected a member of the Assembly for the year 1842, and in 1842 he was elected to succeed Gabriel Furman as Senator from the first district. He served in this office from 1842 to December 31, 1846, during which time he was looked upon as his party's leader in the Senate. In 1857 he was elected as a Justice of the Supreme Court, holding this office until 1862. In 1869 Judge Lott was elected an Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals, and in 1870 the Governor appointed him Chief Justice of the Commission of Appeals, which office he held until 1875, when the commission expired.

His wife was Catherine Lott, a daughter of Jeremiah Lott, one time Surrogate of Kings County. He left three sons and two daughters, as follows: Surrogate Abraham Lott, John Z. Lott, Esq., Mr. Jeremiah Lott, Mrs. Cornelius Low Wells and Mrs. John H. Livingston. Judge Lott is represented in the Society by several descendants, including his grandson, Mr. Charles L. Livingston, now the Treasurer of the Society.

Mr. Lott was the most distinguished member of Dutch lineage to occupy a judicial office within Kings County during the last century. He was noted for his public spirit and was rarely absent from the banquets and meetings of the St. Nicholas Society. Few

men ever held the confidence of the public as did Judge Lott. He was faithful to every public or private trust imposed upon him, and left his name as a bright place in our Society's roll of honor. He died suddenly at his home in Flatbush on July 20, 1878, and was mourned as one of Brooklyn's greatest sons.

C. A. D.



HON. TEUNIS G. BERGEN



HON. TEUNIS G. BERGEN

HON. TEUNIS G. BERGEN

1878-1881

The Hon. Teunis G. Bergen was born in the Bergen homestead on Gowanus Bay, Brooklyn, October 6, 1806. He was the eldest child of Garret and Jane Wyckoff Bergen and was a descendant of Hans Hansen Bergen, who emigrated to this country in 1633, and Sarah Rapelie, his wife, who was the first white female child born in New Netherlands.

Mr. Bergen was one of Kings County's notable men, combining the attributes of a farmer, surveyor, statesman, soldier and antiquary. He early began the practice and study of surveying and his maps were remarkable for their accuracy and finish. He held successively the rank of Ensign, Captain, Adjutant and Lieutenant-Colonel in the militia and finally Colonel of the 241st Regiment.

In politics he was a Democrat and attended the famous Charleston, S. C., National Convention of 1860, voting and working with all the power at his command to defeat the resolution which finally brought about the secession of the Southern States. He was a delegate to the State Constitutional Conventions of 1846, 1867 and 1868. From 1836 to 1859 he was Supervisor of New Utrecht, and from 1842 until 1846 he was chairman of the Board. In 1864 he was elected to Congress from his district.

Mr. Bergen was brought up to speak the Dutch language and is said to have acquired the ready use of the English language only when he began to attend school. It has been said that he thought in Dutch and expressed himself in English throughout his life. Be that as it may, he used fluent English in his writings and his scholarly attainments would do credit to a Dutchman.

Besides writing many articles and addresses which were published in magazines, he was the compiler of "The Bergen Family," a work of 298 pages, which appeared in 1867. Later he revised and added to it until it was about twice as large, and published it in a second edition. He was also the compiler of "A Genealogy of the Van Brunt Family," "A Genealogy of the Lefferts Family"

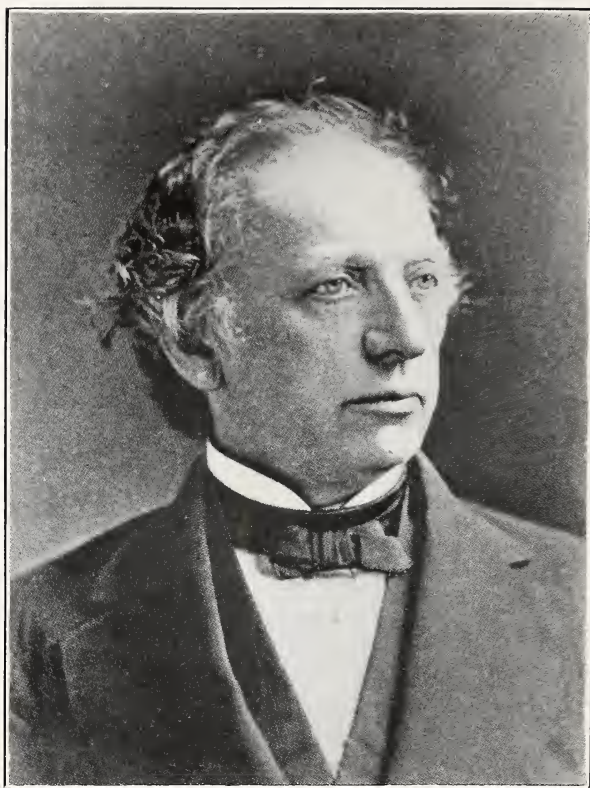
and of "A Register of Early Settlers of Kings County," which appeared in print just after his death, in 1881; and also an address on the "Annals of New Utrecht," delivered in 1877. At the time of his death he had prepared in manuscript a history of New Utrecht, which is still unpublished. He was the first chronicler of the Dutchmen of Nassau Island, and but for his efforts much of our early history would be unknown. He was long Vice-President of the St. Nicholas Society and was one of its founders. He succeeded Judge John A. Lott as President in 1878. Of him Henry C. Murphy said: "As President of the St. Nicholas Society of Nassau Island, he figured as a sort of literary and social St. Nicholas, indicating the past and the present and imparting to the material struggle of the present day a flavor of the present but vanishing traditions of the Fatherland.

He was one of the founders of the Long Island Historical Society and was a member of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. He married, December 19, 1827, Elizabeth, daughter of Rulof Van Brunt, and had seven children, as follows:

Jane, who married Peter Cortelyou; Gertrude, who married William G. Kouwenhoven; Lemma Ann, who died young; Garret T. Bergen, who married Sarah T. Cortelyou; Elizabeth C., who married Norris L. Martin Bennett; Johanna, who died a spinster at a ripe old age, and Van Brunt Bergen, a prominent civil engineer, now retired, who resides on the farm of his father, on the Shore Road, Bay Ridge, and who married Elizabeth Emma Vanderveer.

Mr. Bergen passed away April 24, 1881, honored and loved by all who knew him as one of the men who had been an ornament to the Dutch race in America. He is represented on the rolls of the Society by three generations of his descendants.

C. A. D.



HON. JOHN WARD HUNTER

HON. JOHN WARD HUNTER

1881-1890

The Hon. John Ward Hunter was the fourth President of this Society. He was born in the Bedford section of Brooklyn, October 15, 1807. He was a son of William and Jane Ward Hunter and on his mother's side was a descendant of the Van Duyn family of New Utrecht. He attended public school and at sixteen years of age entered a wholesale grocery house as clerk. Before he was thirty years of age he was made Trustee of Public School Number One. In 1831 he was appointed auditor in the New York Custom House, an office which he held for thirty years under twelve Collectors of Customs.

He married Miss Hester Strang, of an old Huguenot family of New Rochelle, N. Y., and became the father of five children—William A. Hunter, who died in 1881, leaving three daughters; John H. Hunter, who died in 1883, leaving two daughters; Miss Emily Hunter, who died in 1881, and Lieut. Henry C. Hunter, who died in 1881. A daughter, Miss Mary Hunter, survived her father.

Mr. Hunter erected a home at Clinton Avenue between Greene and Lafayette Avenues, when that section was in the suburbs of Brooklyn. Later he moved to Clinton Avenue, near DeKalb, and finally to the Hotel Margaret, where he died April 16, 1900.

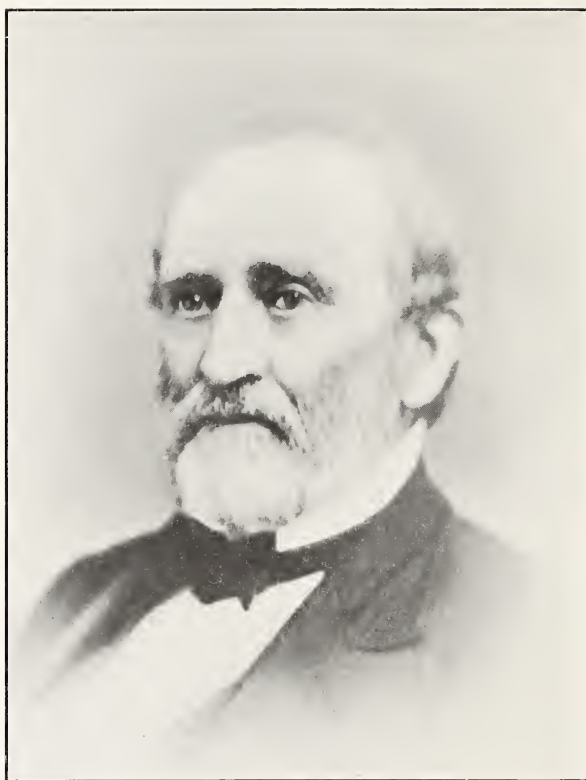
He was a member of the First Board of Education of the City of Brooklyn and continued to hold that office until elected Mayor in 1874. He was elected a member of Congress and took active part in the debates upon the floor of the United States House of Representatives. From 1864 he was connected with the Dime Savings Bank of Brooklyn, being elected Treasurer of the bank in that year. He was likewise a Director in the Manhattan Life Insurance Company and the Mercantile Trust Company. He was President of the Tree Planting and Fountain Society, the St. Nicholas Society and the Society of Old Brooklynites.

He was a pleasing speaker and was commended for his ability as a toast master. A dinner without the presence of John Ward Hunter was a rare event in Brooklyn,

during the period extending from his election to the office of Mayor until the time of his decease.

When asked upon one occasion, what sight had impressed him most during his life, he replied, "The Intrenchments." He referred to the fortifications thrown up in Brooklyn, to protect the city, at the time of the second war with England.

C. A. D.



MR. SILAS LUDLAM

SILAS LUDLAM

1890-1891

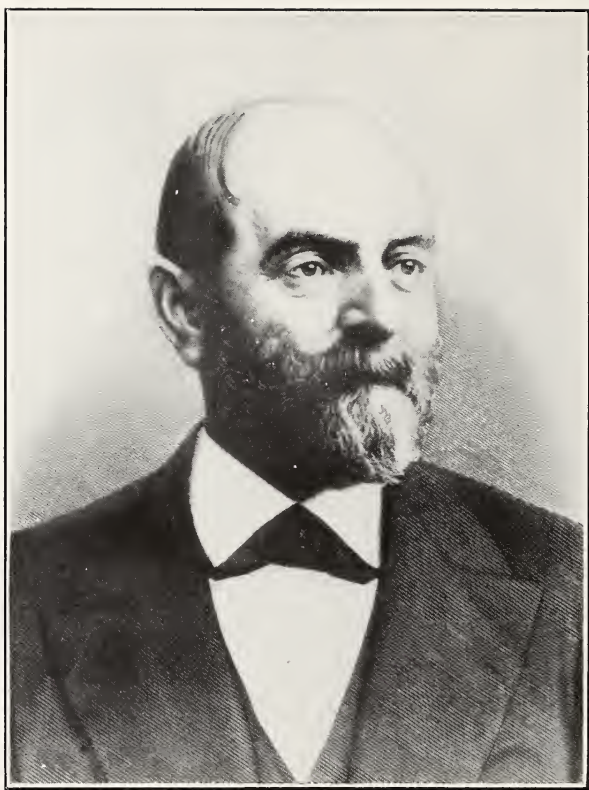
Silas Ludlam, the fifth President of the St. Nicholas Society, was born in the old Seventh Ward of the City of New York on January 14, 1806. He was descended from good old Long Island stock, the first of whom in this country arrived about 1650. His father was Stephen Ludlam, who established a surveying business at 8 James Street, New York, in 1809, which is still in existence. His commission as City Surveyor is signed by De Witt Clinton, Mayor, and John Pintard, Clerk. Clinton later became Governor and the father of the Erie Canal, and Pintard was the founder of the New York Historical Society.

Silas Ludlam, with his three brothers, worked in his father's office, Silas starting in 1826 or 1827 and continuing in the profession until his death, which occurred, after a short illness, on November 3, 1892. In 1848 he came to Brooklyn and opened an office, continuing in active work until 1892, during which time he made most of the surveys of old Brooklyn. He was one of the Commissioners engaged to select a site for Prospect Park and was very much interested in antiquarian affairs, having an interesting collection of old Brooklyn prints. In 1833 he married Elizabeth F. Clem, who, like her husband, lived to a great age. They had seven children: William C. Ludlam, Arthur Ludlam, who died young; Louise Ludlam, who married L. D. DeBost; Edwin Ludlam, George P. Ludlam, Pauline Ludlam, who married William Totten, of Tottenville, Staten Island, and Austin Ludlam, who continues the business of his father and grandfather and has associated with him his son, Ralph Ludlam, who some day will be the fourth in succession to conduct the business.

When Silas Ludlam moved to Brooklyn, he lived at 194 Clinton Street, and continued to reside there for fifteen years, when he moved to 176 Remsen Street, where he resided until his death. He was one of the strong men of Brooklyn, never seeking prominence, but holding the respect of his fellow citizens and valuing his good name beyond price.

So far as we are able to learn the St. Nicholas Society of Nassau Island was the only organization with which Mr Ludlam was affiliated, and he was held in such high esteem by its members that for many years he held the office of Vice-President. He was elected President in 1890, and was re-elected in 1891, but declined to serve on account of his great age. Henry D. Polhemus was selected as his successor.

C. A. D.



MR. HENRY DITMAS POLHEMUS



MR. JOHN J. POLK

HENRY DITMAS POLHEMUS

1891-1895

Henry Ditmas Polhemus, the sixth President of the Society, was a descendant of the Rev. Johannes Theodorus Polhemus, who was the first clergyman in charge of the Dutch Reformed churches in Kings County.

He was a son of Theodorus and Rebecca Ditmas Polhemus, and was born on November 2, 1828, at the old Polhemus homestead on Gowanus Lane (now Fifth Avenue) and Carrol Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. Early in life he entered the store of Fox & Polhemus, of New York City, in which his brother, Abraham Ditmas Polhemus, was a partner. This firm was later known as Brinkerhoff, Turner & Company, and Mr. Polhemus retained an interest in it for many years.

In 1863 he married Caroline, daughter of the late W. H. Herriman.

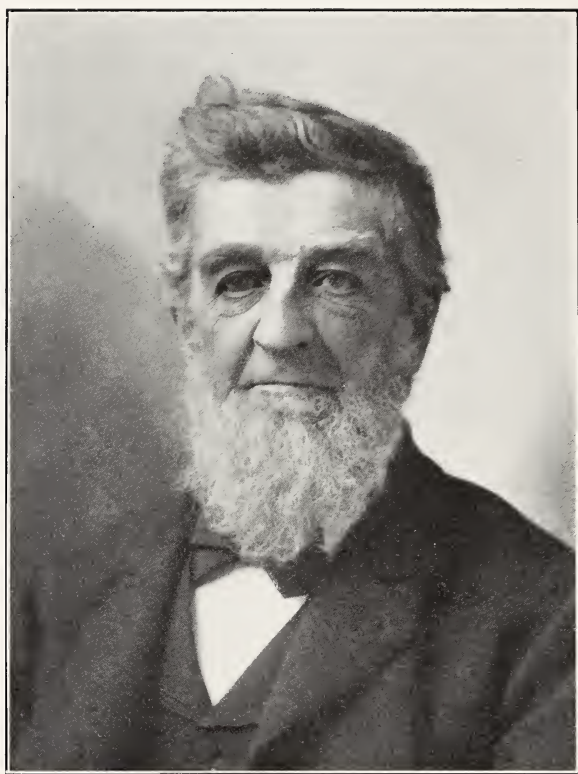
He was long connected with several prominent financial interests in the City of Brooklyn, being a Director of the Long Island Bank, Nassau Fire Insurance Company, American District Telegraph Company, Brooklyn Gas Light Company, Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad Company, Long Island College Hospital, Academy of Music, Brooklyn Eye and Ear Hospital and the Long Island Historical Society. He succeeded the Hon. Benjamin F. Tracy as President of the Brooklyn Club. He was President of the Cuttyhunk Fish Club and member of the Montauk, Hamilton, Germania and the Riding and Driving Clubs. He was an honorary member of the Excelsior Club.

During the latter years of his life he divided his time between Brooklyn, the Adirondacks, Chesapeake Bay and Poland Springs. His yacht, "*The Reckless*," was the scene of boundless hospitality. For many years he attended the Church of the Pilgrims. He died at his home, 88 Remsen Street, on the 14th of February, 1895.

At the time of his death, his sister, Mrs. J. B. King, was in Europe. His two brothers, Theodorus and A. Ditmas Polhemus, had died before him. Mr. Polhemus died without issue, but he had a large family of nieces and a nephew. This nephew, John King, Jr., lived with him.

Mr. Polhemus was the guiding spirit of the St. Nicholas Society for many years, always having a host of friends as his guests at the annual dinner of the Society. It was feared by many that his decease would leave the Society so crippled that it would not be able to survive, but the spirit of respect for our Dutch ancestors had been so aroused by Mr. Polhemus and those associated with him that the Society grew and prospered, but is ever mindful of the great service rendered to it by Henry Ditmas Polhemus.

C. A. D.



MR. PETER WYCKOFF



MR. JOHN W. KILGORE

PETER WYCKOFF

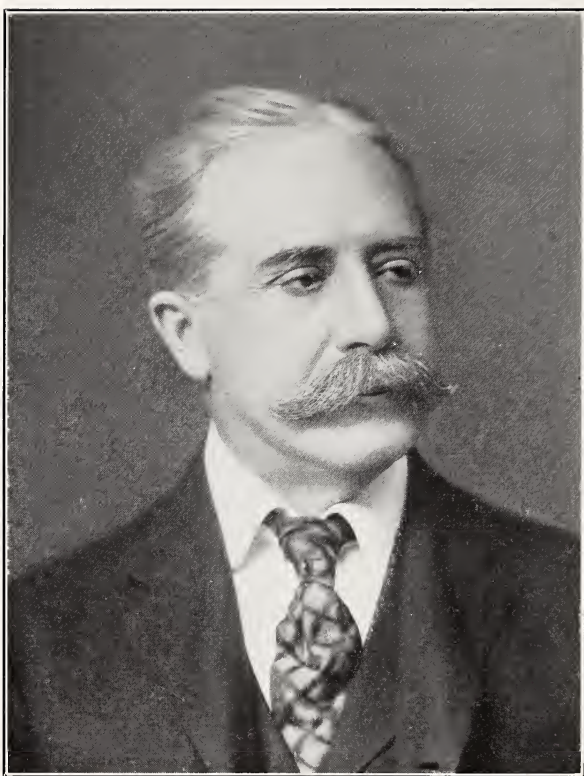
1895

Peter Wyckoff was one of the first members of the Society and continued in active connection therewith until his death on February 9, 1910. He was a direct descendant of Pieter Claus Wyckoff, who settled in Amersfoort in 1654, and was also a grandson of our first President, the venerable General Jeremiah Johnson, "Brooklyn's first and foremost citizen."

Peter Wyckoff was born in 1827 and lived most of his life in the old Wyckoff homestead, 1325 Flushing Avenue. He was a Trustee in the Williamsburg Savings Bank, President of the Grand Street and Newtown Railroad, conducted a prosperous farm and owned a fine stock farm of five hundred acres at Berlin, Rensselaer County, N. Y. He was an active member of the First Reformed Church of Williamsburg, a member of the Holland Society of New York, the Society of Colonial Wars and the Union League Club of Brooklyn. For many years his name headed our list of Vice-Presidents. In 1895, on the death of Henry D. Polhemus, he succeeded to the Presidency and served out the remainder of the term.

He was usually present and active in all our affairs, and his death took from our midst not only our last remaining charter member, but also a much-beloved comrade, whose place at our board will never be filled.

C. A. D.



HON. TUNIS G. BERGEN



MR. THOMAS BROWN

HON. TUNIS G. BERGEN

1895-1903

The eighth President of this Society, Tunis G. Bergen, was born in the old Bergen homestead on the shore of Gowanus Bay, between 32d and 33d Streets, Brooklyn, May 17, 1848. Part of this house is said to have been erected as early as 1646, and to have been continuously owned by Mr. Bergen's family for seven generations. His father was Garret G. Bergen, a brother to the Hon. Teunis G. Bergen, who was President of the St. Nicholas Society of Nassau Island from 1878 to 1881; and his mother was Miss Mary Hubbard before her marriage to Mr. Bergen.

Mr. Bergen was educated at the Polytechnic Institute and Rutgers College, receiving the degree of A.B. in 1868. Later he studied for several years abroad, receiving the degree of Doctor of Public Laws from Heidelberg University (Germany) in 1872. He studied law and history at the Universities of Berlin and Paris and received the degree of LL.B. from Columbia University in 1876.

He was present as guest at the headquarters of the crown prince of Prussia, Frederick, in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, and on many battle-fields. He holds the flag of the French Imperial Cuirassiers which he captured.

Mr. Bergen married on January 26, 1881, Miss Caroline McPhail, of Brooklyn, and makes his home in Brooklyn and Lakewood, N. J., with a summer home in the Catskill Mountains, at Onteora. He has been for many years President of the Bogota City (Columbia) Railway Company, Chapinero Company of South America, College Heights Land Company of Niagara Falls, N. Y., and counsel for many corporations.

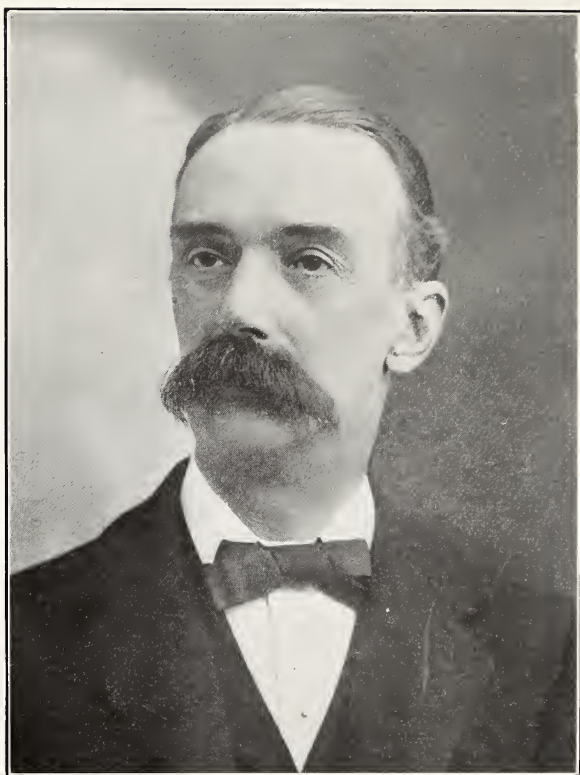
He was President of the Board of Education of the City of Brooklyn from 1881 to 1886, and was a member of the Board for twelve years. From 1895 to 1900 he was New York State Commissioner of Charities.

Mr. Bergen is a Republican, a member of the Reformed (Dutch) Church, a Trustee of Rutgers College, President of the Brooklyn Heights Seminary, Director

and Corresponding Secretary of the Long Island Historical Society, member of the National Bar Association and of the New York County Bar Association, ex-President of the Holland Society and of the St. Nicholas Society of Nassau Island, and a member of the Hamilton, Lawyers', Delta Phi, Country and Brooklyn Clubs. He was a Trustee of the Hudson-Fulton Celebration Commission and is a member of the New York Commercial Ter-Centenary Commission.

He is interested in all out-door sports and forestry, and has devoted much time to the study of the history of New Netherlands. Mr. Bergen usually spends his vacation in the Netherlands and is one of the leading authorities on the history of the relations between the New World and the Netherlands.

C. A. D.



HARMANUS B. HUBBARD, ESQ.



HARMANUS B. BERNARD, Esq.

HARMANUS B. HUBBARD, ESQ.

1903-1904

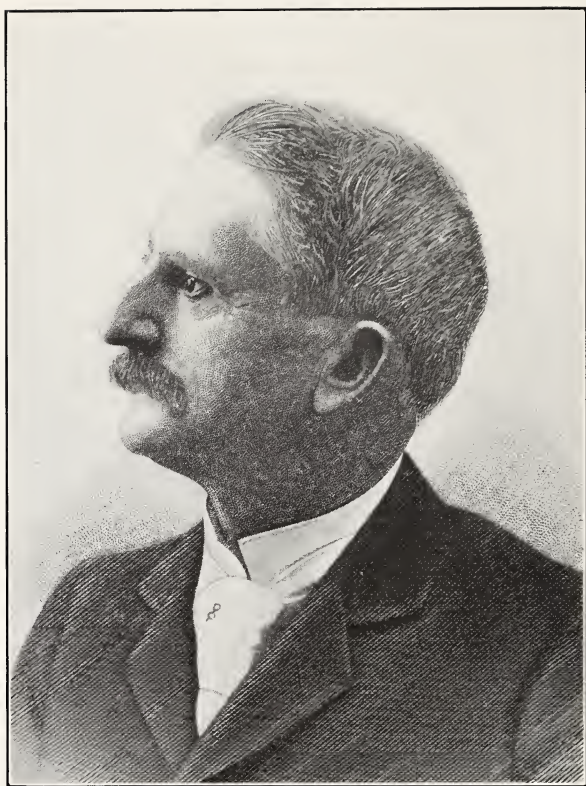
Harmanus Barkuloo Hubbard, Esq., was the ninth President of this Society, serving for one term (1903-1904). He is a direct descendant of Sergt.-at-Law James Hubbard, who was one of the four patentees of the Town of Gravesend, L. I., when it was settled in 1637, the others being Sir Henry Moody, Lady Moody and Ensign Richard Baxter.

Mr. Hubbard was born in Flatlands in 1837, the son of Elias Hubbard and Ida Barkuloo Hubbard, his wife. He was educated in the public schools and by private teachers, and, after his preliminary studies, entered the law office of Harmanus B. Duryee, then District Attorney for Kings County.

In the early days of the metropolitan police, before the consolidation of the Boroughs into Greater New York, Mr. Hubbard was Attorney for the Brooklyn Department. He is now chairman of the Joralemon Street Subway Commission to ascertain compensation for damages to property on the line of the Interborough Subway. He is also President of the Kings County Mortgage Company, President of the Suffolk Electric and Gas Company, a Director in the Home Trust Company and in the United States Trust Company. His church affiliations are with the Protestant Episcopal Church. He is a member of the Brooklyn Institute and of the Brooklyn, Crescent, City and Oxford Clubs.

During the Civil War he was in the National Guard of New York as Judge Advocate on the 2d Division, with the rank of Colonel. He served during the draft riots and was detailed in command at Erie Basin to prevent destruction of docks and shipping.

A. DEW. M.



HON. GEORGE V. BROWER

HON. GEORGE V. BROWER

1904-1906

The Hon. George Vanderhoof Brower, the tenth President, was born in Paterson, N. J., October 17, 1842. He was the son of Richard and Margaret Van Buskirk Brower and was a descendant of Adam Brower, who emigrated to this country in 1642 and who owned the old mill, late of John C. Freecke, at Gowanus, which stood on the south side of the Gowanus Canal, between Sackett and Union Streets. His ancestors, Abraham and Jeremiah Brower, who owned the mill at the time of the American Revolution, fought under Washington, and the mill, with its valuable stores, was destroyed to prevent the British from seizing it. Thus, while Mr. Brower was born in New Jersey, nevertheless he is a Nassau Islander by inheritance, his ancestors being among our best and most public-spirited citizens.

He was educated at Paterson and was prepared for Princeton College. When the Civil War broke out, it compelled a change of his plans. After the war he studied law in the office of Judge Charles P. Waller, at Honesdale, Pa., and was admitted to the Bar in Wayne County, in 1866. In 1867 he came to Brooklyn, and since that year he has been engaged in the practice of commercial and real estate law in the Borough of Brooklyn, City of New York, specializing in Surrogate's Court practice.

On October 20, 1870, he married Miss Mary E. Tompkins.

In 1885 President Cleveland appointed him General Appraiser of the Port of New York, in which office he served four years, during President Cleveland's term. In 1889 Mayor Chapin appointed him Commissioner of Parks of the City of Brooklyn. He was elected President of the Board, and when a single-headed Commission was created in 1891 he was appointed to that position by Mayor Boody. Upon consolidation with the City of New York, Mayor Van Wyck appointed him Commissioner of Parks for the Borough of Brooklyn, which position he held for four years.

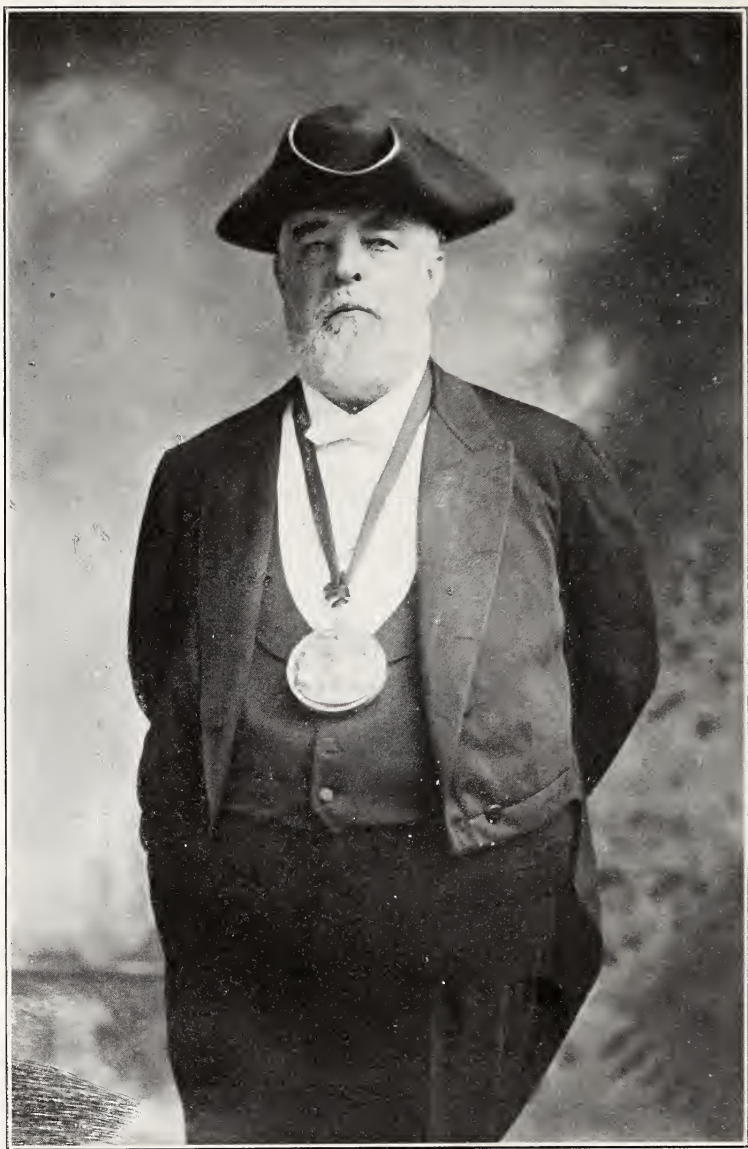
Mr. Brower has four children—two sons, George E. and Ernest C., who are associated with him in the practice of law, both of whom are loyal members of the St. Nicholas Society, and two daughters, Miss Edith D. Brower and Mrs. Clarence M. Phipps.

He is a Director and Counsel of the Kings County Trust Company, Trustee of the Nassau Insurance Company, Trustee of the United States Title Insurance Company, Trustee and Treasurer of the Brooklyn Central Dispensary, Trustee Hudson-Fulton Celebration Commission, Trustee and President of the American Tree Planting Society, honorary member Kings County Historical Society, member of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, New York Zoological Society, Long Island Historical Society, President of the Brant Island Club, member of the Lawyers' Club of Kings County, Montauk, Brooklyn, Rembrandt, Democratic and the Brooklyn Riding and Driving Clubs.

His summer home is Brant Island, Buzzard's Bay.

For many years Mr. Brower has been, and is now, the High Steward of the St. Nicholas Society of Nassau Island.

C. A. D.



PETER L. SCHENCK, M. D.



JOHN C. STANLEY, Major

PETER L. SCHENCK, M.D.

1906-1909.

Peter Lawrence Schenck, M.D., was the eleventh president of the St. Nicholas Society of Nassau Island, serving three terms—1906, 1907 and 1908. He is a lineal descendant of Johannes Schenck (1656-1748), the progenitor of the Bushwick, Long Island, family of Schenck, and was born in Flatbush on October 25, 1843, a son of John and Catherine Van Dyck (Ryder) Schenck. He was prepared for college by the Rev. Dr. Van Kleeck at Erasmus Hall Academy, Flatbush, then under the control of the Reformed Dutch Church, and graduated at the University of the City of New York in 1862, receiving from that college the degree of A.B., and of A.M. in 1865. He received the degree of LL.D. in 1898. He took his medical degree in 1865 at the College of Physicians and Surgeons (Med. Dept. of Columbia University). He was married in 1896 to Sarah Elizabeth, daughter of Joseph White, M.D., of Canajoharie, N. Y. He was acting assistant surgeon, U. S. A., 1865, in charge of a hospital at Wilmington, N. C.; assistant physician at the Cholera Hospital, Brooklyn, 1866; medical superintendent of the Kings County Hospital, 1872-1881; consulting surgeon of the Kings County Hospital, 1882-1914; visiting physician of the Kings County Penitentiary, 1889-1905. He is affiliated with the Reformed (Dutch) Church, attending in his early life the Reformed Dutch Church of Flatbush, and later the First Reformed Church of Brooklyn. Dr. Schenck was for some years prominent in Masonic circles, having been Master of Montauk Lodge, F. and A. M., for two terms, and District Deputy Grand Master of the Third Masonic district of New York one term. He is a life member of the American Academy of Medicine, a member of the Kings County Medical Society since 1872 and of the Kings County Hospital Alumni Association. He is a member of the College Fraternity of Zeta Psi, and was largely instrumental in the erection of the chapter house of this Fraternity at the New York University campus on University Heights, New York City. He is a member of the Montauk Club and one of the physicians of the St. Nicholas Society of

Nassau Island. In 1907 he retired from the active practice of medicine and has since lived quietly at his home on Sixth Avenue, Brooklyn.

A. DEW. M.



MR. SYLVANUS TOWNSEND WHITE

SYLVANUS TOWNSEND WHITE.

1909-1910

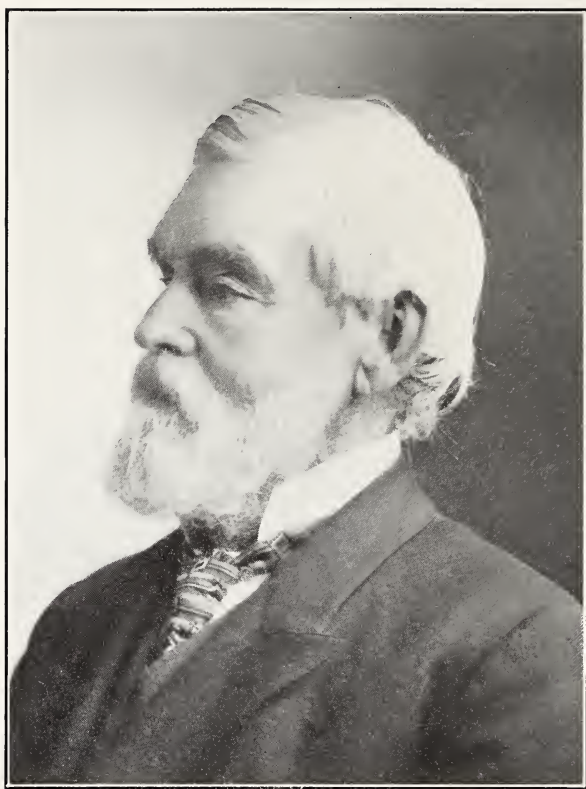
Sylvanus Townsend White for many years held the office either of Secretary or Treasurer of the St. Nicholas Society of Nassau Island. At the annual meetings in 1909 the members unanimously elected him as President as a mark of esteem in which they held him and in appreciation of his long and faithful service as an officer of the Society.

Mr. White was born on March 1, 1848. He was educated first at Adrian Hegeman's private school and later at a private school conducted by Mr. Putnam. He finished his education at the Polytechnic. His business career started as a clerk in the old Brooklyn Bank. Later he was made Secretary of the Nassau Gas Company, a position which he held for many years. He married Miss Ella L. Gates, October 16, 1872, who died February 18, 1913. They left a daughter, Mrs. Frank R. Abby.

During the latter years of his life Mr. White spent the fall and spring months of the year at Ridgewood, N. J., the winter months in the South and the summer months at his cottage in Milford, Pa., where he died August 27, 1910.

Mr. White had won a place in the heart and affections of every member of the St. Nicholas Society, and High Steward George V. Brower expressed the feelings of each and every one when he referred to him as "our dear President," on the evening of December 6, 1910.

C. A. D.



HON. EDWARD D. WHITE

HON. EDWARD D. WHITE

1910-1911

Edward D. White, senior Vice-President, succeeded his son, Mr. Sylvanus T. White, as President of the St. Nicholas Society of Nassau Island. He has been Vice-President of the Society for many years. He was born in Brooklyn, March 12, 1822, was educated at public and private schools and at Swinbourn's Boarding School, White Plains, N. Y. In 1835 he entered the employ of Abraham B. Baylis, who kept a hardware store.

About 1840 Nathan Young purchased the business, and Mr. White continued with him and later with his successor, Wm. N. Clem. About 1848 he entered the same line of business for himself, as a member of the firm of White & Knapp. He became partner of Joseph K. Brick, in the Fire Brick Works, about 1850, and continued therewith until about 1873, when it was incorporated as the Brooklyn Fire Brick Works, under which title it is still doing business. Mr. White has been a director continually since it was organized.

In 1860 Mr. White was elected Supervisor of the Fourth Ward, and in 1864 he was elected to the New York State Assembly and again in 1872. He was for many years Director of the old Brooklyn Bank.

For about twenty-five years he was a Director of the Brooklyn City Railroad, also for many years a Director of the Montauk Fire Insurance Company, the Nassau Fire Insurance Company and the Nassau Gas Company. For forty-eight years he was Trustee and Vice-President of the Brooklyn Savings Bank, the largest institution of its kind on Long Island. For many years he was a Trustee of the Long Island Loan and Trust Company and is still a Director of the Long Island State Deposit Company. He was President of the Society of Old Brooklynites and is the sole surviving charter member. He possesses a certificate of membership in the St. Nicholas Society of Nassau Island, dated 1851 and signed by Jeremiah Johnson, President, and John G. Bergen, Secretary.

Mr. White was first married to Miss Sarah Frances Underhill, and after her death to Miss Anna F. Mumby. He has been blessed with four children, among them three



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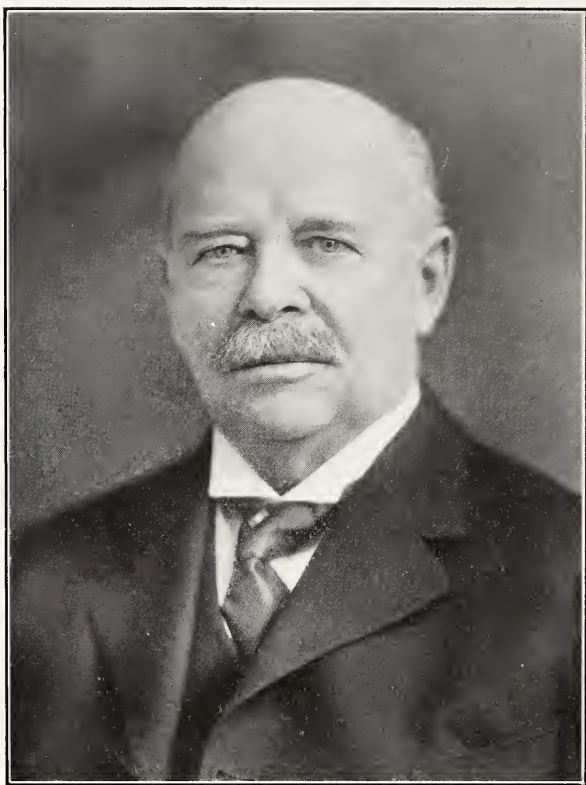
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daughters: Mrs. John Haviland, Mrs. Edwin A. Overton and Mrs. Edward L. Rice. His only son was our beloved President, Sylvanus Townsend White.

C. A. D.



HON. JOHN E. VAN NOSTRAND

HON. JOHN E. VAN NOSTRAND

1911-1912

John E. Van Nostrand is the son of Norman and Catherine Ann Van Nostrand, whose ancestors emigrated to this country from Holland in the year 1640.

He was born in the old Town of Newtown, Queens County, N. Y., on April 20, 1847, on the farm of his father, and continued to reside upon a portion of the farm until the old homestead was sold, about the year 1911; he then took up his residence with one of his daughters, his wife having previously departed this life.

He obtained his preliminary education in the district school of his native place and in old Public School No. 16, in the City of Brooklyn, under that sterling instructor, Leonard Dunkley, afterwards receiving the benefit of private instructors. He entered the Law Department of Columbia College in 1872, then presided over by that prince of jurists, Judge Theodore W. Dwight, and was graduated in the year 1874, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Laws. He was the same year admitted to the Bar of the State of New York, and since that time has continuously practised his profession.

In early life he entered the political arena, was a Justice of the Peace in the old Town of Newtown in 1877, and was elected one of the Supervisors of the County of Queens in 1878, holding that office for eight terms and during a portion of that term acting as chairman of the Board.

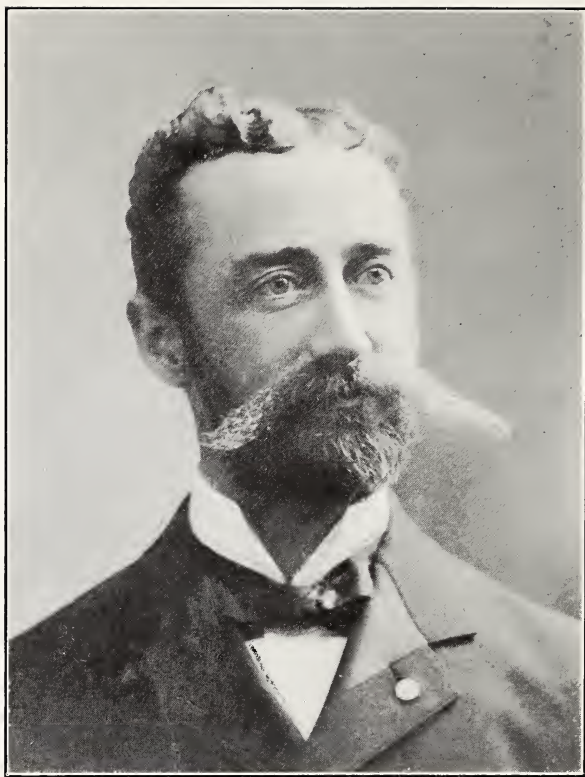
In the year 1881 he married Anna R. Wyckoff, the eldest daughter of Peter and Catharine M. Wyckoff, and granddaughter of Nicholas Wyckoff, then President of the First National Bank of Brooklyn. Mr. Nicholas Wyckoff was one of the earliest members of the St. Nicholas Society of Nassau Island, and Mr. Peter Wyckoff will be long remembered as one of its popular Stewards and as Acting President in 1895.

Mr. Van Nostrand is a member of the West End Collegiate Reformed Dutch Church, Borough of Manhattan.

Mr. Van Nostrand, with several others, founded The Holland Society of New York in 1885 and was one of its

first Vice-Presidents, and is the only member living of those who met at Judge Vanderpoel's residence when the society was organized. This society, at this time, has one thousand members, with a waiting list. At present Mr. Van Nostrand is serving as one of its trustees. He has long been a member of the St. Nicholas Society of Nassau Island, in which he takes the greatest interest. He was elected its President in 1911 and again in 1912, and is at present one of its Trustees.

A. DEW. M.



MR. EDWARD BENNETT VANDERVEER



MR. EDWARD ROBERT CUNNINGHAM

EDWARD BENNETT VANDERVEER

1913-1914

Edward Bennett Vanderveer is of the twenty-fourth generation from Floris VIII, Lord of Borssele, a place on the Island of South Beveland, in Zeeland, who, in 1161, received from his cousin, Floris III, Count of Holland and Zeeland, the exclusive right to reclaim some land off the southeast coast of the Island of North Beveland, and is twenty-second in descendant of Floris' grandson, Wolfert I, Lord Van Der Veer, Sandenburg and Sanddike.

Mr. Vanderveer was born the 9th of February, 1857, and was the third child of Henry Vernon Vanderveer and Lucy A. M. Bennett, his wife. His grandfather was Dr. Adrian Vanderveer, one of the founders of the Kings County Medical Society and a leading specialist of his day and generation. His great-grandfather was the Hon. John C. Vanderveer, the Flatbush statesman, and his great-great-grandfather was Captain Cornelius Vanderveer, Flatbush's hero of the Revolution.

Mr. Vanderveer received his education at Erasmus Hall Academy, the Rev. E. B. Emerson's school at Stratford, Conn., and at the Pennington, N. J., Seminary. His business career opened in the employ of the Niagara Fire Insurance Company, with which he was connected for twenty-five years, the latter part of the time as their Brooklyn representative. He is at present engaged in the insurance business on Montague Street.

He has always been an active Republican and for many years was President of the Republican Association of Flatbush, but has never accepted public office. He was the fifteenth President of the St. Nicholas Society, serving during 1913-1914.

Mr. Vanderveer married Helen Van Brunt Prince, daughter of John Duffield Prince, of Flatbush. Their only daughter, Gertrude Martense Vanderveer, married Mr. Harold Edward Ditmars, a member of the Society and descendant of Jan Jensen Van Ditmarsen, and they have a son, Edward Vanderveer Ditmars. Mr. Vanderveer's only son, Henry Vernon Vanderveer, died at the age of four and a half years.

Mr. Vanderveer is a director of the Kings County Mortgage Company, President of the Flatbush Co-operative Savings and Loan Association and a member of the Midwood Club. He is a member of Montauk Lodge, No. 286, F. and A. M.; the Holland Society, the St. Nicholas Society of Nassau Island, the Kings County Historical Society, the Republican Club of the Eighteenth Assembly district and of the Brooklyn League.

C. A. D.



MR. WILLARD P. SCHENCK



Mr. Winlake F. Seabrook

WILLARD P. SCHENCK

1914-

Willard Parker Schenck, the son of Teunis Schenck, M.D., and Sarah Elizabeth (Lott), was born in the Town of New Utrecht, L. I., in 1868, being the seventh generation from Johannes Schenck, the founder of the Schenck family of Long Island. He is the nephew of Peter Lawrence Schenck, M.D., a former President of the St. Nicholas Society of Nassau Island. Mr. Schenck was educated at the Brooklyn Collegiate and Polytechnic Institute. He married, in 1894, Elizabeth Ditmars, daughter of Cornelius Ditmars and Margaret Van Houten, of Flatlands. She is of the ninth generation of the Ditmars family in America.

His profession is that of a banker, and he is now the Assistant Secretary of the Brooklyn Trust Company, having held a similar position in the Long Island Loan & Trust Company until its consolidation with the Brooklyn Trust Co. He is also a Director of the Brooklyn City Safe Deposit Company, of the Flatbush Co-operative Savings and Loan Association and Director and Treasurer of the Excelsior Hygienic Ice Company.

He is a member and Deacon of the Reformed Dutch Church of Flatbush.

His clubs and associations include the Hamilton, the Society of Colonial Wars of the State of New York, the New Utrecht Liberty Pole Association and the Dutch Church Club.

A. DEW. M.

OFFICERS OF
ST. NICHOLAS SOCIETY OF NASSAU ISLAND
1914-1915

PRESIDENT

Willard P. Schenck

VICE-PRESIDENTS

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